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28 July 1959

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

USSR-Rumania: Khrushchev plans to go to Rumania for the celebration of the 15th anniversary of its "liberation" on 23 August, according to reports from various Western diplomats stationed in Bucharest. Although Khrushchev has visited Rumania twice before, such a trip would be his first official state visit and follows the pattern of his recent formal trips to Poland and Albania. [redacted]

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Kerala: A final decision by India's central government to intervene in Communist-governed Kerala State appears near. Intensive discussions among the top national leaders may reach a climax during a cabinet meeting scheduled for 29 July, although imposition of President's Rule may be deferred until after Parliament reconvenes on 3 August. Such action would be followed some time later by a call for new state elections. Both Congress and Communist party leaders continue their propaganda pressure on the government as demonstrations in Kerala and other key states take on a more violent tone. [redacted]

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Africa-France: A growing number of African nations are protesting proposed French atomic tests in the Algerian Sahara. [redacted] Morocco has lodged a strong note of protest with the French Embassy in Rabat. In Libya, the prime minister recently condemned French plans, and the local press is unanimously critical of them. The provisional agenda of the forthcoming conference of nine independent African states at Monrovia already includes the subject of Saharan nuclear tests, and the African nations are expected to endorse a resolution critical of France's proposed activity. [redacted]

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III. THE WEST

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France-Libya: [The French Air Force apparently intends to proceed with its proposed overflights of Libya on 29 July and 5 August to look for Algerian rebel activities in Libya, particularly possible air bases. In view of French emotions over the proposed US arms deliveries to Tunisia, France may insist on the overflights despite warnings that US Air Force units in Libya cannot "look the other way." The British say Paris has not informed them of its latest proposed overflights. Paris may have decided against discussing the matter with London in view of the British-Libyan mutual defense treaty.] [redacted]

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DAILY BRIEF

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I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

Khrushchev Reportedly Plans Visit to Rumania

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Khrushchev reportedly plans to visit Bucharest in late August in conjunction with the celebration of Rumania's 15th "liberation" anniversary on 23 August. Reports from [British,] US, and Austrian diplomats stationed in Bucharest indicate that active plans were under way for this visit at least ten days before Khrushchev canceled his 9-27 August visit to Scandinavia. The American air attaché in Bucharest learned from a supposedly reliable source early in June that a visit by Khrushchev was definitely planned for late August. Despite the seeming conflict in travel plans, the projected Rumanian visit probably had no bearing on the decision to cancel his Scandinavian trip.

Within the past five months Khrushchev has made major state visits to East Germany, Albania, and Poland. This would be his first official state visit to Rumania, although he has visited that country twice before. Khrushchev would undoubtedly avail himself of the opportunity to survey at firsthand the status of Rumania's accelerated domestic program and might discuss matters which will be considered at the third Rumanian Communist party congress, probably to be held in December.

Unconfirmed reports persist that Khrushchev may also visit Sofia in conjunction with Bulgaria's "liberation" ceremonies on 9 September. His commitments in the near future include a session with a visiting British Labor party delegation headed by party leader Hugh Gaitskell on 29 August, and possibly attendance at a reported bloc summit meeting in Moscow early in August. []

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Africans Critical of French Nuclear Tests in Sahara

French plans to hold nuclear tests in the Sahara are arousing a growing storm of criticism among African leaders who profess fear of the effects of radiation. They also probably see in the issue a popular subject for anticolonialist propaganda. Several nations have already lodged official protests, the press has given increased coverage, and labor unions have called for mass protests. In early August, a conference in Monrovia of nine independent African states is expected to pass a resolution condemning France.

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[In the most recent action, Morocco--where the prospective tests will almost certainly heighten agitation for the evacuation of foreign forces--last week lodged a strong note of protest with the French Embassy in Rabat.] In Libya the prime minister's press bulletin has condemned the French, and the Libyan press appears unanimous in its criticism of Paris. Tunis is also deeply concerned, and the local American Embassy believes the foreign secretary will push the matter at the August conference in Monrovia.

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Ghana[and Liberia] made official protests to France earlier in July, and the subject of nuclear testing was discussed at the recent meeting at Sanniquellie of West Africa's three leading spokesman. The topic is already on the provisional agenda of the Monrovia conference, and a critical resolution will probably be supported by all the participants with the possible exception of Ethiopia. The subject was given attention in April 1958 at the first conference of independent African states at Accra and was on the agenda of the Accra meeting last December.

The issue has attracted considerable popular attention, aroused in part by extensive press treatment. In early July, after university studies on the possible effects of nuclear blasts were released, crowds, stimulated by government officials, demonstrated in front of the French Embassy in Accra. Similarly, in Nigeria the press has developed a strong campaign and the leading university has published studies on the dangers of radiation.

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